

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

April 19, 2018

Commission Members Present:

Peter Hwang
Bianca Chang
Kui Zhao
Scott Markow
Shivani Aghera
Bob Ford
Joan Hash
Hector Garcia
Sharon Jeon

Commission Members Absent:

Reverend Turner, Chair
Shiraz Ahmed
Opel T. Jones

Staff:

Stephanie Chapple, Recording Secretary
Dr. Barbara J. Sands, HRC Executive Secretary
Cynthia Peltzman, HRC Legal Counsel

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC FORUM – Brandon Kitt, student, attended to complete Boy Scouts Troop Merit Badge criteria

3. APPROVE MINUTES – March minutes approved.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT – No Chair's report. Commissioner Bianca chaired April meeting due to absence of Chair Turner and Vice Chair Shiraz.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS - N/A

6. STAFF REPORT – Please see hard copy report submitted.

- HBI cases have increased 20% since prior month. KITS are needed for Human Trafficking victims. Currently, HRC has prepared 4 KITS which will be delivered to the Police Department. Stephanie will forward list of items needed for KITS to C. Peltzman, HRC Legal Counsel. Dr. Sands attended meeting this past Tues with Sidney Ford, Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinator in the Community Services and Resources Department. A fall meeting is being planned with numerous agencies throughout the county. More information will be shared in the following months. A HT survivor attended the meeting and shared her story. Commissioner Joan shared that the Backpage site has been taken down permanently.
- Dr. Martirano and Dr. Gilbert will attend the May HRC meeting on Tuesday, May 15th. Please note – the monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15th instead of Thursday, May 17.
- Trainings – EEOC Training Conference will be held in San Antonio, Tx, and the National Conference of IOAHRA will be held in Cincinnati in August. Commissioners should discuss and decide who will attend both conferences.
- Programs and events – Please see flyer re. upcoming program sponsored by MAHRA with **Dr. Joy DeGruy, International Lecturer and author on Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome**, 5/7 at the North Laurel Community Center. OHR will host this program. Please share with your networks. **Black Pioneers of Howard County** event will be held in the fall. More information will follow.
- Dr. Sands met with Young-han Chang Smith who will send a list of cultural groups so that members of the HRC can meet with them. Information was shared about OHR/HRC. Ms. Chang Smith is requesting that OHR/HRC brochures be translated into Korean language and leaders in the Chinese community have also requested the same. OHR is in the process of working on this.

7. CLOSED SESSION - The Commission voted to go into Closed Session at 6:13 p.m. (see attachments) to discuss HRC Case No. 18-03-002 and obtain advice from Legal Counsel. Closed session ended at 6:29 p.m. Open session re-opened and meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS – Per Dr. Sands, The county cannot pay for business cards. Commissioners interested in purchasing cards can do so on their own. This purchase will not be reimbursed. Stephanie will forward a template that members can use if interested.

9. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.